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LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to Iraq's letters contained in documents S/1996/1076 and S/1997/3, I have the honour to state the following.

A number of Iraqi opposition groups, both inside and outside Iraq, have claimed responsibility for the assassination attempt mentioned in Iraq's letters. Iraq's attempt to blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for its chaotic domestic problems is an old and dull trick. But it clearly indicates that Iraq has not truly changed its policy of hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran despite the many euphemistic references its officials have made to the rule of law, friendly relations and neighbourliness in their relations with Iran.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects all trickeries, fabrications and mere allegations in the above-mentioned letters and herewith confirms that the letters are generated as pre-emptive schemes to conceal or at least divert attention from Iraq's escalated instigation of and support for a terrorist group to carry out trans-border armed attacks from Iraqi territory against Iran. In the past two months alone, five such armed attacks have been organized in Iraq and carried out against the Islamic Republic of Iran. A large number of intruders from Iraq have been captured and are going through the judicial process; a number of them died in the clashes at the points of entry and some retreated to Iraq. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Government of Iraq responsible for these violations of its territorial integrity and for the consequences which the pure lies and fabrications of that Government may bring about.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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